

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Hiroshi SUGIYAMA et al.)
)
Serial No.: Not yet assigned) Group Art Unit:
)
Filed: January 4, 2001) Examiner:

For: A SETTLEMENT SYSTEM USING PURCHASE INFORMATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants would like to point out to the Examiner the following pending application:

(1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/640,786 may be related to the present application. A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the document listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that it was considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants

LAW OFFICES

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reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

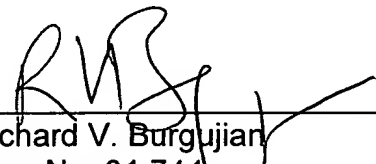
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:


Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

Dated: January 4, 2001

Enclosures
RVB/FPD/peg

Serial No. 09/640,786

Filed: August 18, 2000

Entitled: AREA DEPENDENT CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD

By: Miwako DOI et al.